Title: InPort – The FIS Metadata Catalog

Objective: To present progress on FIS FY04 funding to develop the FIS metadata catalog

Abstract: The FIS InPort Metadata Catalog should give NOAA Fisheries and its state and regional partners the capability to share essential information about fisheries-dependent data. As envisioned in the NOAA and NOAA Fisheries 2003-2008 strategic plans, by 2008, NOAA Fisheries' six Regions will be expected to manage the nation's marine resources under an ecosystems-based regimen very different from what has been used in the past. In March of 2003, NOAA committed to four Mission Goals through FY 2008. Mission Goal 1 is to *"Protect, restore, and manage the use of coastal and oceanic resources through ecosystem-based management."* To achieve this goal, NOAA Fisheries must move from narrower, species and site-specific management of marine resources to a more comprehensive ecosystems approach to science, management, and regulatory processes.

A key factor to meeting the 2008 goal is for NOAA Fisheries to "improve its Information Base for Stewardship". As outlined in the NOAA Fisheries 2004 Strategic Plan for Fisheries Research, the creation of a national fisheries information system (FIS) as described in the 1998 Report to Congress will address NOAA Fisheries Goal 4 to "improve the fishery information system."

InPort (*In*formation *Port*al), is one of the initial, bootstrap systems planned by FIS to give NOAA Fisheries and its partners the capability to catalog and search on Fisheries data holdings. InPort is a tool for managing information about our organization, projects, data, publications and information products such as maps and reports. Metadata for these information objects are registered and cross-referenced in the InPort system and are searchable by topic, theme keyword, spatial or temporal context, and by related objects. InPort will give FIS, NOAA Fisheries and their partners two basic, but vital capabilities:

1. To share information across regions and NOAA Fisheries
2. To search and study a repository of cross-regional information for use in fisheries science, management, and regulation

Information about what, where, when, how, and who of all data holdings can be completely documented in the system. Details on the quality and completeness of data, its confidentiality policies, research models, methodologies and usage constraints can be fully documented. Additionally, the InPort system can manage information about people, equipment inventories, publication references, and project history.

In the long run, InPort will become one of the foundational data systems for NOAA, NOAA Fisheries, and other Federal, state, and local agencies in support of ecosystems-based management.